The two sides decided to address, *inter alia*, the following subjects: (a) Peace and Security, including CBMs; (b) Jammu and Kashmir (c) Siachen; (d) Tulbul Navigation Project; (e) Sir Creek; (f) Terrorism and drug trafficking; (g) Economic and Commercial Cooperation; (h) Promotion of friendly exchanges in various fields. They also agreed to set up a mechanism, including working groups at appropriate levels, to address all these issues in an integrated manner; the issues at (a) and (b) above will be dealt at the level of the Foreign Secretaries, who will also coordinate and monitor the progress of all the working groups. Both sides further agreed to take all possible steps to prevent hostile propaganda and provocative actions against each other.

The Joint Statement provides the basis for a comprehensive, constructive and sustained dialogue between India and Pakistan. It is the framework under which substantive discussions would take place on various issues. We look upon it as a step forward in our efforts to engage Pakistan on a broad front with the objective of building a relationship to trust, friendship and cooperation.

Advantage of Israeli Defence expertise in Defence

188. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state whether India propose to take advantage of Israeli expertise in the field of defence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERWANI): The Government of India pursues a policy of enhancing defence production and research and development with friendly foreign countries including Israel.

Joint Working Groups between India and Pakistan

189. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent meeting of the SAARC at Mala has resulted in Indo-Pak cordiality especially in resolving the Kashmir issue, apart from other benefits which India may be deriving;

(b) whether the Joint Working Groups are proposed to be set-up for detailed studies of areas of conflict between India and Pakistan;

(c) if so, the terms of reference and their objects and scope; and

(d) whether there would be any deviation from the accepted policy which India has been following so far, emphasising no compromise on national security and territorial integrity of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA): (a) to (c) The meeting of Prime Minister Shri I.K. Gujral with Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif of Pakistan. on May 12, 1997 in the Maldives was positive and constructive. The Prime Ministers directed the Foreign Secretaries of the two countries to pursue the resumed Foreign Secretary level dialogue, the first round of which was held in New Delhi in March 1997. In pursuance of this directive, the Foreign Secretaries met in Islamabad from June 19—23, 1997. They identified the following subjects which will be addressed by the two countries: (a) Peace and Security, including CBMs; (b) Jammu and Kashmir; (c) Siachen; (d) Tulbul Navigation Project; (e) Sir Creek; (f) Terrorism and drug-trafficking; (g) Economic and Commercial Cooperation and (h) Promotion of friendly exchanges in various fields. The Foreign Secretaries also agreed to set up a mechanism including working groups at appropriate levels to address these issues. The two sides will now engage to discuss the setting up of these working groups including their composition, terms of reference if and as required, venue of meetings and allied matters. This subject will also be taken up at the next round of Foreign Secretary level talks scheduled to be held in New Delhi in September, 1997.

(d) India desires to establish a relationship of trust, friendship and cooperation with Pakistan but there is no question of any compromise with India's secular unity, sovereignty, basic values and territorial integrity.

Nuclear Weapons test by USA

190. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "USA CONDUCTS NWEAPONS RELATED TEST" as reported in the "Statesman", dated 4th July, 1997; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction to such N-Weapons tests conducted by USA.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SH. SALEEM IQBAL SHERWANI) : (a) Yes Sir. Govt. have taken note of the 'sub-critical' underground nuclear test conducted by the USA on July 2, 1997.

(b) Government believes that such developments confirm the validity of India's assessment that the CTBT, in its present form, contains loopholes and does not further the cause of global nuclear disarmament.

Chinese Missile Technology transfer to Pakistan

191. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Chinese missile technology transfer to Pak continues'; which appeared in the "Economic Times" dated the 17th April, 1997; and

(b) if so, what is the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERWANI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The acquisition of missiles and related technologies by Pakistan is being continuously monitored and assessed by Government. Our concerns regarding Pakistan's acquisition of M-11 missiles have been conveyed to the concerned countries. Government remains fully committed to taking all necessary steps to safeguard India's security and national interest.

Delay in sanctioning of Nutrition and Ageing projects

192. SHRI V. RAJESHWAR RAO: DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a research project, known as Nutrition and Ageing, proposed by the National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad, is pending sanction for research trials by the ICMR;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the delay in approving this project;

(c) by when the approval would be given and the actual trial start; and

(d) by when its results would be made public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (d) A research project on 'Nutrition and Ageing', proposed by the National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad was approved by the Health Ministry's Screening Committee in September, 1996. This proposal is being processed for funding from the US-India Rupee Fund after taking the requisite administrative clearances. Normally, approval is obtained within one year from the date the proposal is posed to the donor agency. The final approval for the project is, however, given by the donor agency, if the proposal meets with its guidelines.

If the Project is approved by the Donor Agency the project is expected to be completed in about 3 years time. The result would only be known thereafter.

Lack of population policy in the Country

193. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: